

SC Children’s Justice Act Task Force
2024-2027 Members

Chair: Trista Baird

Vice Chair: Mary “Tena” Hardee

Category	Member	Title/Agency
Law Enforcement	Trista Baird (Chair) tbaird@sled.sc.gov	<i>Captain,</i> SC Law Enforcement Division, Special Victims Unit
	Lieutenant Kristopher N. Evensen Kevensen@aikencountysc.gov	<i>Lieutenant,</i> Juvenile Investigations Aiken County Sheriff’s Office
Criminal Court Judge	Honorable Daniel Coble dcoblej@sccourts.org	<i>Circuit Court Judge</i> 5 th Judicial Circuit, Richland County
Civil Court Judge	Honorable Kimaka Nichols-Graham kngrahamj@sccourts.org	<i>Family Court Judge</i> 13th Judicial Circuit, Greenville County
Prosecuting Attorney	Allison Foster Foster.Allison@richlandcountysc.gov	<i>Assistant Solicitor,</i> Fifth Judicial Circuit, Richland County
Defense Attorney	Sarah Smith Smith.sarah@richlandcountysc.gov	<i>Assistant Public Defender,</i> Richland County Public Defender’s Office
Child Advocate (Attorney for Children)	Mary Christine “Tena” Hardee (Vice Chair) Mary.hardee@childadvocate.sc.gov	<i>General Counsel, Guardian ad Litem Program</i> SC Department of Children’s Advocacy
	Angela Kohel Kohel.angela@richlandcountysc.gov	<i>Managing Attorney, CASA</i> Richland County Court Appointed Special Advocates
CASA/GAL Representative	Pamela Robinson clemsonrobinson@gmail.com	<i>Volunteer Guardian ad Litem</i> Richland County Court Appointed Special Advocates
	LaDara Depugh Ladara.depugh@childadvocate.sc.gov	<i>Director,</i> SC Guardian ad Litem Program
Medical Professional	Dr. John Melville melvillj@musc.edu	<i>Clinical Professor of Pediatrics,</i> University of SC School of Medicine. <i>Director, SC Children’s Advocacy Medical Response System</i>
	Sarah Wilson Sarah.wilson3@PrismaHealth.org	<i>Pediatric Nurse Practitioner,</i> Division of Child Abuse Pediatrics Prisma Health Children’s Hospital
Mental Health Professional	Dr. Libby Ralston Lralston0391@gmail.com	<i>Director Emeritus,</i> Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center Faculty, Project BEST
Child Protective Service Agency, DSS Rep	Josie Jones Josie.jones@dss.sc.gov	<i>Director, Office of Safety Management</i> SC Department of Social Services

Experienced with Children with Disabilities	Jennifer Buster Jennifer.buster@scdhhs.gov	<i>BabyNet Director</i> SC Department of Health and Human Services
	Cheryl Fitts cfitts@ed.sc.gov	<i>Community Engagement Education Associate</i> SC Department of Education, Office of Special Education Services
Parent Group Representative	Megan Branham mbranham@familyconnectionsc.org	<i>Director of Training & Policy</i> Family Connection of SC
Adult with Lived Experience in Child Welfare	Kelley Perkins Brown kbrown@aikenpd.com	<i>Deputy Public Defender</i> Aiken County, 2 nd Judicial Circuit - Juvenile Div.
Experienced in Working with Homeless Children	Deborah C. Boone Deborah.boone@richlandone.org	<i>McKinney-Vento Coordinator,</i> Richland County School District One
Court Admin. Rep.	Hannah Perry hperry@sccourts.org	<i>Family Court Representative</i> South Carolina Judicial Branch
DAODAS Rep.	Margaret Garrett mgarrett@daodas.sc.gov	<i>Quality Manager</i> Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
SCNCAC Rep.	Tom Knapp tknapp@cac-sc.org	<i>Executive Director,</i> SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers
Department of Children's Advocacy Rep.	Amanda Whittle Amanda.whittle@childadvocate.sc.gov	<i>State Child Advocate and State Director,</i> SC Department of Children's Advocacy
At-Large Members		
	Vicky Gaskins vgaskins@acpsd.net	<i>Director of Security and Emergency Management,</i> Aiken County Public School District
	Ellen Hamilton echamilton@peedeecoalition.org	<i>Executive Director,</i> Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Assault

Children's Law Center Staff	Rebecca Carney carneyr@mailbox.sc.edu	<i>Children's Justice Act Coordinator</i>
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